



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101-3140

OFFICE OF
WATER AND
WATERSHEDS

Memo to Yakima Project File

Larry Johnson,
State Conservation Engineer
Natural Resources Conservation Service
316 W. Boone Ave., Suite 450
Spokane, WA 99201-2348
Phone: 509/323-2955

On February 16, 2012 at approximately 9:00 am, I, Chan Pongkhamsing, spoke with Larry Johnson on the telephone. We discussed the following questions I had emailed to him earlier on 2-9-12:

- I. If a dairy lagoon is constructed without NRCS assistance (funding, technical, cost-share, etc), does not need grading permit from the County, and does not fall under Dam Safety Program jurisdiction, do they have to follow any guidelines from construction and lining requirements? Or can they just build it any way they'd like? "If constructed at their own costs, there are no requirements and no approval process by NRCS."
 - II. Do operating ponds (ponds in current use) regardless of when they were built, require NRCS inspection and approval? "No, inspections are done by Washington Dept of Agriculture. NRCS is not a regulatory agency." Laurie Crowe of South Yakima Conservation District mentioned a "worksheet" that NRCS uses to evaluate waste storage facilities? Is there such a "worksheet"? If so, can I get a copy? "She may be referring to our current effort to develop a procedure for inventorying and evaluating waste storage ponds."
 - Do waste storage facilities need approval to operate? Are they written approvals? If so, can I get a copy? "No"
 - III. Is there a list of waste storage facilities located in the Yakima Valley that receive NRCS assistance? Who can I contact to inquire about this list? "We may have a list of dairies that have been in our cost-share program. I will look into this with our Public Disclosure Officer and get back to you."
 - IV. I am interested in specific dairies in Yakima Valley. If I provide their names and addresses, would you be able to provide when, how, and to what lining standards they were built? "If the cost-share list is not exempt from public disclosure, I will get it to you."
- I've also heard that NRCS purged all documents on older waste storage facilities within the last decade or so? Does this mean any information on older than 10 year old ponds have been deleted? When did that "purge" occur? "We have rules of how long records can be kept. I'm not aware of when and what was purged in Yakima Valley."